

Double Spiral Worm (*Bispira volutacornis*)

Polychaeta (Annelida:Sabellina)

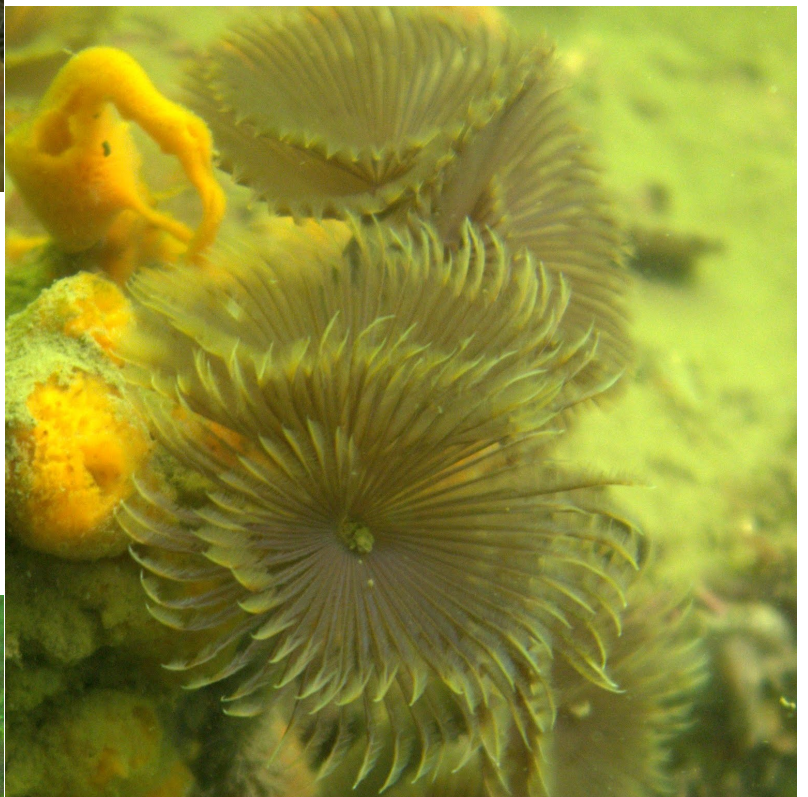
Taxonomy: Annelida->Polychaeta->Sabellina

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

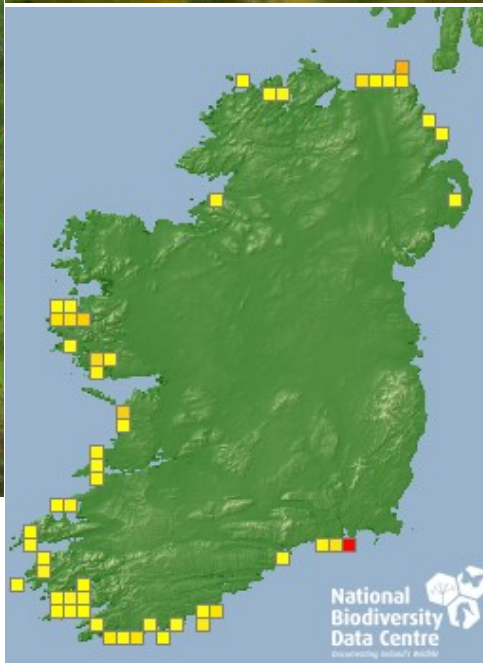
Colonial sedentary tube forming worm found on all Irish coasts except the east. Globally found on south west coasts of Britain, on eastern Atlantic coasts of Europe and in the Mediterranean. A dioecious species (separate male and female) the reproductive life cycle of this species has been extensively studied in the west of Ireland¹. Spawning occurs from late July to early September and is regulated by seasonal changes in water temperature¹.



Also known as the fan worm and twin fan worm, this species occurs with the crown of radioles (of up to 200) arranged in rings of 1-4. Occur in a variety of colours typically found in relatively sheltered habitats attached to sides or crevices in rocks. The tube of mucus and mud/silt is typically up to 15cm in length with an oval opening. Typically worms retract fully into the tube when disturbed as in middle tubes (below).



Typically a more southerly species in Britain they are common at a number of sheltered sites in the west and south west of Ireland. May be under recorded nationally.



1. Nash, R. and Keegan, B.F., 2003. Reproductive cycle of *Bispira volutacornis* (Polychaeta: Sabellidae) on the west coast of Ireland. *Marine Biology*, 143(5), pp.919-925.

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